

The Warbler

VOL 16 NO 2

JOHN JAMES AUDUBON STATE PARK NEWSLETTER

APRIL-JUNE 2009

Mother Nature vs. Jack Frost—The Price of Ice

By Julie McDonald, Park Naturalist

In late January, John James Audubon State Park, along with the rest of Kentucky, was paralyzed when an ice storm of historic proportions brought electricity and other modern conveniences to a standstill. At the Park, an estimated 3,000 trees snapped or were uprooted under the colossal weight of ice, snow, and other falling debris. This devastation created unsafe visitor conditions such as hanging limbs and debris over roads, walkways, buildings, and vehicles.

Two months later, our Golf and Maintenance departments continue to clear and prepare the grounds for visitors. Much of the initial cleanup was done by the Kentucky State Park Tree Crew and the Transportation Cabinet contractors. With everyone's assistance, an estimated 5,000 cubic-yards of debris was removed from the park.

Naturally with this much work going on, various parts of the park have been closed to the public. We apologize for any inconvenience to the public, however we ask people to be patient. Heavy equipment will continue to work throughout the park to clear areas as quickly as possible. We will be scheduling volunteer days throughout the Spring to help us get the park back into shape.

The museum, golf course, cottages, park office, and most of the trails are open for visitors. Additional golf course cleanup will make some areas on the course off limits for safety reasons. One thing is for sure, we will be cleaning up from this event for several years to come.



John Audubon and Natural Disasters

By Alan Gehret, Museum Curator

From my office in the Audubon Museum tower I have a bird's eye view of the park, the gardens, parking area, and nature preserve. At the moment, no matter what window I look from, the scene is pretty much the same: broken branches, shattered trees, and piles of downed limbs from the recent ice storm. As I watch another truck loaded with branches and limbs that are being hauled out of the park, I can't help but wonder what natural disasters have come our way in the past. As you might expect, my mind jumps to John James Audubon and anything that he may have noted on various events in his time. As it turns out, Audubon wrote of three disasters in his "episodes" that he interspersed in his bird biographies.

In "*A Flood*" he talks about flooding in general along the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers. In typical Audubon fashion, it is a grand natural event to witness; "...the Ohio itself presents a splendid, and at the same time an appalling spectacle; but when its waters mingle with those of the Mississippi, then it is time to view an American flood in all its astonishing magnificence."

He also recognized the devastating affects of seasonal flooding, noting that at the Falls of the Ohio water levels were known to rise sixty feet above the lowest levels, and that waters would quickly and violently fill the valleys and bottomlands sweeping away everything in its path. In one case he knew of a cow that swam into the second story window of a house surrounded by water. While such events were dreaded by the settlers along the Ohio, it was an expected part of life. Many inhabitants had rafts ready-made to remove themselves, their cattle and provisions. They were prepared to tie themselves to a tree and "...contemplate the melancholy spectacle presented by the current, as it carries off their houses..."

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Extra! Extra! Read All About It!



Home Grown Bluegrass Festival and Creative Arts Festival ~ Music and More for the Whole Family By Kim McGrew

It's festival time, right around the corner with the "Home Grown Bluegrass & Creative Arts Festival" on May 15 - 16. We will be *strummin'* up the music Friday night from 5:00-9:00 p.m., and continuing Saturday from noon-9:00 p.m. The Creative Arts Festival will kick off at 9:00 a.m. Saturday with visual art booths and crafters selling, exhibiting, and demonstrating their work. "Creation Station" will include family fun and excitement for all ages. We have an ongoing list of art classes, face painting, inflatables, a petting zoo, and a magician, all lined up just for you. Don't miss this spectacular event!



We are also in need of volunteers for manning booths, parking, and set-up and take down. For more information please contact Kim McGrew or Mark Kellen at the JJA State Park. (270) 826-2247 or (270) 827-1893.



Featured Bluegrass Bands:

Friday, 5:00 p.m. -9:00 p.m. and Saturday, noon-9:00 p.m.

Bold Witness

Highway 41

Phillip Steinmetz

Brushfire

Keith and Gary Vincent

River Bottom

Fields of Home

Kings Highway

Sassafras

Creative Art demonstrations held throughout the day:

Glass-blowing

Potter's wheel

Woodcarving

Hand-spun weaving

Soap making

and much more.

Creation Station: Children's section

Potter's wheel and hands-on by Albert Bauman 9:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Face Painting-10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Petting Zoo by Equestrian Enterprises 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Balloons by Daniel Herron 10:00 a.m.-4:00 pm

Magician Matt Grisham-12:30 p.m.-1:30 p.m.

Art classes by Kelly Gilbert - All day

Inflatable- All day

Mark Your Calendars

Monday Night Scramble Every Monday night from Memorial Day, May 25—Labor Day, September 7 at 5:00 p.m. Audubon Golf Course. Contact Audubon Golf Pro Shop at 270-826-5546 for more information.

Weekly Campground and Park Programs Visitors are invited to participate in arts, crafts, and activities focused on entertainment, recreation, and education between Memorial Day and Labor Day. Please call 270-826-2247 for program details.

Three-Person Scramble Saturday, August 15 & Sunday, August 16 at 8:00 a.m. Audubon Golf Course. Call Audubon Pro Shop for more details **Staff Contact:** Audubon Golf Store Pro Shop at 270-826-5546.

Monarch Butterfly Migration Mysteries Saturdays, September 12 and September 19 at 8:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Audubon Museum Bid farewell to the Monarch butterflies migrating south for the winter. We will meet at the Audubon Museum for an introductory indoor presentation then carpool to the Sloughs Wildlife Management Area for some outdoor Monarch tagging. **Staff Contact:** Julie McDonald at 270-826-2247 or juliea.mcdonald@ky.gov. **Program Fee:** \$5.00 per person, Family rate (up to five members, extra members \$2.50 each) - \$13.00; **FOA Members** - \$4.00 per person.

Audubon State Park contact information

Main Office, Law Enforcement, and cabin reservation—270-826-2247

Museum and Group Program Scheduling—270-827-1893

Park Naturalist—270-826-4424

Golf Pro Shop—270-826-5546 (group outings are available)

Online camping registration

www.parks.ky.gov or www.reserveamerica.com

Kentucky State Parks and special events information

www.parks.ky.gov/stateparks/au/index.htm

www.parks.ky.gov and 1-800-255-PARK.

Friends of Audubon Website: www.friendsofaudubon.org



We can be found online at Facebook and Twitter.
"Become a fan" or "follow" us today!

Museum and Nature Center admission

Adults—\$6.00

Children 6-12—\$3.00, (children under age 6 are free)

Family rate—\$12.00 (parents and dependant children under 18)

Meeting room and Museum Gardens may be rented.

Contact the Park Main Office for rental fees.

Golf Green Fees

Weekday: 18 holes—\$10.00, 9 holes—\$5.00

Weekend: 18 holes—\$12.00, 9 holes—\$6.00

Golf Cart Rental (club rental equipment also available)

18 holes—\$12.03 per person, 9 holes—\$7.08 per person

John James Audubon State Park CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April—June 2009

Youth Programs WITH Adult Chaperone

Registration may be required for the following programs.

Audubon Art for Tiny Tot's

Fridays, April 3 and May 1 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Audubon Museum

Tots & parents will have fun in the monthly Audubon Art classes. Explore the world of art, painting, pastels, and clay.

Staff Contact: Kim McGrew at (270) 827-1893 or kim.mcgreg@ky.gov **Program Fee:** \$5.00 per session
Pre-registration is required.

Audubon Summer Art Classes for Kids

June 9th-25th (3-week session)

Children ages 3-12 will explore various art mediums in the two-3 week sessions in June & July. **Pre-registration is required.** **Staff Contact:** Kim McGrew (270) 827-1893 or kim.mcgreg@ky.gov.

Audubon State Park Kids Fishing Derby

Saturday, June 13 7:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Sign up at Audubon Park Boat Dock

Kids up to age 16, test your fishing prowess and compete for prizes. **Staff Contact:** Julie McDonald at 270-826-2247 or juliea.mcdonald@ky.gov **Program Fee:** Free.

Youth Programs WITHOUT Adult Chaperone

Registration may be required for the following programs.

Junior Naturalist Programs

Tues., June 2; 9:00 am-noon **Ages 10-12;** Audubon Museum

Tues., June 9; 9:00 am-noon **Ages 8-9;** Audubon Museum

Tues., June 16; 9:00 a.m-noon **Ages 6-7;** Audubon Museum

Tues., June 16; 7:00 p.m.- S'mores Celebration and Awards Ceremony for all Junior Naturalists and their families (Audubon Campground Shelter)

Open your eyes to the amazing wonders in your own back yard. Programs meet at the Audubon Museum. Kids who attend any one of these dates will receive a patch and certificate.

Staff Contact: Julie McDonald at 270-826-2247 or juliea.mcdonald@ky.gov **Program Fee:** \$10.00 **Pre-registration is required.**

Audubon Summer Art & Nature Camp

June 10,11&12 (ages 8-12) 9:00 a.m. – Noon

June 17&18 (ages 6-8) 9:00 a.m. – Noon

June 24&25 (ages 4&5) 9:00 a.m. – Noon

Children ages 4-12 will explore the exciting adventures at Audubon State Park. Awesome Art, Birds of Prey, Terrific Trails, Bertha Bubbles, paddle boats, fishing, and much more. Ages 4&5 must be accompanied by an adult. **Staff Contact:** Kim McGrew at 270-827-1893 or kim.mcgreg@ky.gov.

Adult Programs/Events

Registration may be required for the following programs.

Adult Artists Retreat

Friday, April 17 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Beginning to advanced artists are invited to attend the monthly artists retreat at the John James Audubon Museum. Come and explore the creativity which surrounds the lower level gallery at the museum. Explore the minds of others as we create our masterpieces of art. Special speakers and programs will vary for the noon activities. For registration or more info contact Kim McGrew.

Staff Contact: Kim McGrew at (270) 827-1893 or kim.mcgreg@ky.gov **Program Fee:** \$15.00.

Spring Golf Classic

Saturday, April 11 (hosted at Municipal City Golf Course) and Sunday April 12 (hosted at Audubon Golf Course)

Call Audubon Pro Shop for more details

This two-day tournament will have a four-person scramble format. Tournament will be flighted after the first day.

Staff Contact: Audubon Golf Pro Shop at 270-826-5546.

John James Audubon Open Golf Tournament

Saturday, May 16 – Sunday, May 17

Audubon Golf Course

Call Audubon Pro Shop for more details.

Staff Contact: Audubon Golf Pro Shop at 270-826-5546.

Monday Night Scramble

Monday nights from Memorial Day, May 25 – Labor Day, September 7 5:00 p.m. Audubon Golf Course

Staff Contact: Audubon Golf Pro Shop at 270-826-5546.

Challenge Course Facilitator Training

Thursday, June 4; Rain Date Friday, June 5

9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Audubon Main Office Parking Lot

Become a certified Challenge Course Leader during this facilitator training. Facilitators can bring their own groups out to the course for a reduced price or **get paid** to facilitate other challenge course groups. The challenge course helps individuals promote trust and group cohesion; improve self-confidence; develop decision-making and conflict resolution skills; and enhance communication and leadership skills.

Registration required. Contact staff for registration. **Staff Contact:** Julie McDonald at 270-826-2247 or juliea.mcdonald@ky.gov **Program Fee:** \$10.00 per person.

John James Audubon State Park

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April—June 2009

All Ages

These programs are designed for adults and families. Youths under the age of 14 must be accompanied by an adult.

International Year of Astronomy - 100 Hours of Astronomy; 400 Years of Astronomy

Presented by Mitch Luman, Director Koch Science Center and Planetarium

Thursday, April 2

7:00pm – 8:00 Special program at Audubon Museum. Stargazing afterwards at the Audubon Golf Course.

This event, held in cooperation with Evansville Museum of Arts History and Science, observes the first astronomical use of the telescope by Galileo – a momentous event that initiated 400 years of astronomical discoveries and triggered a world-wide scientific revolution.

The evening, beginning at the Audubon Museum, features a special program by Mitch Luman on the history of the telescope. After the Museum program, stargaze at the Audubon State Park driving range.

Other “100 Hours of Astronomy” event activities will be held at the Evansville Museum April 1 – April 5.

Staff Contact: Julie McDonald at (270) 826-2247 or juliea.mcdonald@ky.gov **Program fee:** Free.

Wildflower Extravaganza

Saturday, April 4

Join us for three leisurely hikes to see the vibrant forest flora. Additional programs for all ages will also be available. We'll also learn about “problem” plants and how they affect the native plant species during an outdoor invasive species removal. Contact staff for event schedule and program times. Walks and other event programs start at the Audubon Museum.

Staff Contact: Julie McDonald at (270) 826-2247 or juliea.mcdonald@ky.gov.

Camper Appreciation Weekend

Friday, April 24 – Sunday, April 26.

Enjoy fun family activities as we thank our visitors for making Kentucky State Park's system the nation's finest!

Staff Contact: Julie McDonald at (270) 826-2247 or juliea.mcdonald@ky.gov.

Audubon's Birthday & Garden Opening Reception

Sunday, April 26th Time: 2:00-4:00 p.m.

Come to the Audubon Garden to celebrate J. J. Audubon's birthday and the opening reception for the renovated gardens. Free museum tours, bird program, and birthday cake. Wedding displays by A Complete Party Rental of Henderson.

Ohio Valley Birding Festival

Thursday, April 30- Sunday, May 3

JJA State Park and Wesselman Woods, Evansville, IN

Join birders and educators from throughout the region. Learn about birds, birding, and bird habitat from some of the best birders in the field. Seminars, workshops, hikes, and crafts will be available for all ages and all levels of interest.

Complete schedule can be found at <http://www.wesselmannaturesociety.org/woods/events.php>

This festival is sponsored by J. J. Audubon State Park, Wesselman Nature Society, Evansville Audubon Society, Evansville Wild Birds Unlimited, and Southwest Indiana Master Naturalist Association. Activities below held at Audubon State Park Museum (unless noted):

- Audubon Art- Birds, Birds, Birds ages 8-12 Thursday 4:00-5:15 p.m.
- Search for the Ivory-billed Woodpecker Thursday 7:00-8:00 p.m.
- The Wonderful World of Wood Warblers Friday 6:30-7:30 p.m.
- Bird Hikes, Saturday 7:30-9:00 a.m. and 8:30-10:00 a.m.
- A Walk with Bluebirds, Saturday 10:30-11:30 a.m. (Sycamore shelter)
- Explore Raptors, Saturday 12:30-1:30 p.m.
- Keynote speaker reception for Alan Gehret Saturday 6:00 p.m. Call for location details.
- Keynote Address—History and Impact of John James Audubon on Ornithology and Bird Conservation Saturday 7:00 p.m. Call for location details.

Staff Contact: Julie McDonald at (270) 826-2247

juliea.mcdonald@ky.gov or Susan Haislip (812) 479-0771

Home Grown Bluegrass and Creative Arts Festival

May 15-16 John James Audubon State Park

Music Friday, May 15 5:00 p.m.—9:00 p.m. and

Saturday, May 16 noon—9:00 p.m.

Enjoy two days of pickin' and jamming'. Local bluegrass bands will host this annual festival that is fun for all ages. A favorite is the open mic and pickin' opportunities so bring your instrument!

Art Festival Saturday, May 16 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Artists will fill the museum gardens with various works of art, selling, demonstrating and exhibiting. Bring the whole family and enjoy the music, food and entertainment for all ages. Children's art programs will be offered throughout the day. **Staff Contact:** Audubon State Park Office at 270-826-2247 or Audubon@ky.gov

Entrance Fee: \$3.00 per car.

Creatures of the Night Adventure Trek/National Trails Day

Saturday, June 6 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Audubon Museum

Venture out with our Interpretation staff on National Trails Day and discover the mysticism of nighttime creatures.

Dress for the weather and bring a flashlight

Staff Contact: Julie McDonald at 270-826-2247 or

juliea.mcdonald@ky.gov **Program Fee:** Free

2008 Bluebird report

PROJECT SOS: SAVE OUR SIALIA (Bluebird)

By: Julie McDonald, Park Naturalist and Bob and Judy Peak, Volunteers

In the mid to late 1950s bluebirds, once a harbinger of spring and a welcome greeter along fencerows, began disappearing at alarming rates. Active nests were hard to come by as the search went on to identify the causes.

One cause of their dwindling numbers came from aggressive competitors like the exotic European Starling and House Sparrow as well as our native Tree Swallow.

These rivals compete for food and nesting cavities often with deadly results. Since two-thirds of a bluebird's diet is insects and other invertebrates, harsh weather and chemical insecticides dramatically impact bluebirds and other insectivorous birds by eliminating their food source. Finally, the loss of suitable habitat continues to threaten wildlife population numbers leaving any remaining bluebirds searching for safe places to raise chicks.

A female bluebird usually builds a nest in less than a week and lays one egg per day until the clutch of 3-6 eggs is complete. When the last egg has been laid, the female begins incubating the eggs, which takes 12-14 days. After the eggs hatch, both bluebird parents feed the nestlings for 16-18 days. When the juveniles fledge, the bluebird parents may feed them for an additional two weeks, or until the young birds can secure food on their own.

Since the 1950s, bluebirds have made an unprecedented recovery through the tireless efforts of volunteers and organizations like the Kentucky Bluebird Society. Concerned volunteers help provide safe housing for cavity nesters, minimize predation, and discourage competitors.

With this goal in mind Bob and Judy Peak, residents of Henderson, KY, volunteer their time with Project SOS monitoring bluebird nest boxes monthly in Land Between the Lakes (LBL), Lake Barkley State Resort Park (LBSRP) and John James Audubon State Park (JJASP). The Peaks established a bluebird trail at JJASP in 2005 which presently includes 15 nest boxes. The Peaks maintain these boxes carefully checking the number of eggs, species of the residents, and cleaning out the nest contents at the end of the season.

During the 2008 nesting season JJASP nest boxes produced 55 bluebird fledglings, 18 Carolina chickadees, 17 tree swallows, and four Carolina wrens. The bluebird fledging success rate was 90.1%. In 2005, 18 bluebirds fledged from ten nest boxes at JJASP; in 2006, 12 nest boxes produced 37 bluebird fledglings; and, in 2007, 12 nest boxes produced 34 bluebird fledglings. Since 2005, in addition to bluebirds, the JJASP bluebird trail has yielded 72 fledglings, representing three species (Carolina chickadee, tree swallow, Carolina wren). In August, 2007, the Peaks assisted the JJASP Naturalist Julie McDonald in setting up a nest camera box behind the park's nature center. This box was donated by the Kentucky Bluebird Society. In April 2008, the box produced four Carolina wren fledglings from a clutch of five eggs.

Through the efforts of Project SOS, 1453 bluebirds hatched in 2008 in nest boxes located at LBL, LBSRP, and JJASP. There were also 53 Carolina chickadees, 22 tree swallows, four Carolina wrens, and 17 prothonotary warblers that fledged from the combined nest boxes. Since the project was started in 1990, there have been 19,961 bluebird fledglings and 1,453 fledglings produced by six other cavity-nesting bird species.

The goal of Project SOS is to maintain a core population of bluebirds to counterbalance severe seasonal conditions. Since birding is one of the most prevalent recreational activities in the United States, and eco-tourism has become a driving force in the recreational pursuits of millions of Americans, the economic benefits of Project SOS are immeasurable.



Audubon Nature Journal

April

- Migrant songbirds such as warblers are moving north for the breeding season.
- Wildflower numbers reach their peak at the Park. Look for spring larkspur, phlox, & blue-eyed marys.
- Woodcocks continue "sky dance" courtship flights and Flickers establish their territory.
- Peak of sapsucker migration.
- American Toads calling, salamanders breeding.
- Woodchuck litters born.
- Canada Geese nesting and first young hatch..
- Maples, Birch, Alder, Redbud, Spicebush, Serviceberry, and Dogwood all in bloom.
- The fruiting of morel mushrooms begins.



May

- Warbler Migration at its peak.
- Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Nighthawks, Chimney Swifts, Wood Thrush, and Veerys return.
- Sub-adult Purple Martins return to establish new colonies (early in month.)
- Luna and Cecropia moths out (late in month.)
- Catalpa, Black Locust, Tulip Poplar, Pawpaw, Buckeye, Apple, and Lilac all in bloom.
- Beaver kits born, skunk litters born.
- Put out nesting material such as yarn or string for backyard birds.
- The may apple is finishing blooming.



June

- Bird migration finished – summer residents nesting.
- Feeders become busy with parents bringing fledglings.
- Box Turtles and Snapping Turtles lay eggs on land.
- Fawns continue to be born through mid-month.
- Wood Duck and Mallard ducklings hatch.
- Young Woodchucks and Raccoons emerge and venture out with their mothers.
- Bullfrogs begin calling.
- Crickets begin nightly serenade.
- Green Tree Frogs become plentiful in wetland areas.
- National Trails Day is June 6, so come to the park and hike our trails.



Museum News

Museum hours: daily 10:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.

Contact the Park office 270-827-1893 or 270-826-2247 for holiday hours.

“The Passion of Pastels” Art Exhibit

Feb. 19-May 17 Open daily
10:00a.m.—5:00 p.m. Audubon
Museum invites you to view the
brilliance of color in the
collaborations of artworks by tri-
state artists Iris Gentry, Jan Frazier
and Lynn Buckman. The techniques
and styles of the various artists make
for a beautiful palette of color and
designs.



Reaching Out Through Social Networking Sites

John James Audubon State
Park can now be found online
at Facebook and Twitter, two
popular social networking
sites. Individuals who join
receive regular updates on
Park goings-on. Become a
“fan” or “follow” us today.



Audubon State Park Receives Grant for New Playground Equipment ***By Julie McDonald, Park Naturalist***

Last Fall the Park's Sycamore Shelter playground equipment was removed in anticipation for a new multi-play unit. The new play unit will be constructed in two phases with each phase costing approximately \$20,000. This month, the Park received \$5,000.00 from the Kentucky State Parks Foundation and was matched by the Friends of Audubon. Although the Park is hoping to receive additional funds from a Land and Water Conservation grant, we are looking to the community to invest in this region's future. Playgrounds provide a positive atmosphere where kids can play together, exercise, interact with nature, unplug from electronic devices, and extend their minds. For more information, contact Mark Kellen at 270-826-2247. Donate to the Friends of Audubon today and mark your donation “playground.”



Gift Shop News:

By Raini Hall, Gift Store Manager

Warm, sunny days, wildflowers in bloom, birds cheerfully singing ... spring is returning to the Park.

Come out and enjoy all the natural beauty our park has to offer. While you're here, stop by the Museum Gift Store and take a look at our great selection of nature-inspired products and items for the Audubon enthusiasts.

With Easter just around the corner, there's no better time to check out our grapevine branch baskets. You might want to fill them with soft forest animals, hand-painted robin's eggs and an assortment of delicious gourmet jelly beans. Don't have the time to shop...give us a call and we will gladly make up a basket for you.

Don't forget about our winged friends. We carry an assortment of birdhouses and feeders, butterfly houses, and bat houses. Do you need a fun project for you and your children or grandchildren? We carry “build your own” birdhouse kits.

We keep adding to our Kentucky crafted products from Lucia lotions and soaps to hand-carved walking sticks. We still carry a wide selection of Audubon prints, books, cards, and souvenirs. We invite you to stop by and see our latest items. Gift cards are available for purchase and may be used at all Kentucky State Parks.



Garden Dedication

By Julie McDonald, Park Naturalist

Last Fall, the Audubon Museum Garden was redesigned using a grant from the Kentucky State Parks Foundation and matching funds from the Friends of Audubon.

Audubon State Park is proud to celebrate John James Audubon's birthday and dedicate the Garden on Sunday, April 26 at 2:00 p.m. Cake and punch will be served. Free museum tours and a bird program will be available until 3:30 p.m. Wedding displays will be provided by A Complete Party Rental of Henderson, KY.

**Celebrate
Audubon's birthday
& Garden dedication
April 26 at 2:00 p.m.**



Vince Davis and Park Manager, Mark Kellen install the arbor built by the late Anthony Hazelwood

John Audubon and Natural Disasters

Continued from pg 1.

The third incident recounted by Audubon tells of the Great Earthquake (New Madrid) of 1811 - 1812. Having known of earthquakes only from descriptions Audubon paints an interesting picture of the first shock waves that he experienced. "Who can tell of the sensations which I experienced when I found myself rocking as it were on my horse, and with him moved to and fro like a child in a cradle, with the most imminent danger around, and expecting the ground every moment to open, and present to my eye such an abyss as might engulf myself and all around me?"



The strength and duration of the New Madrid earthquake is legendary. Shock waves continued day and night for weeks, gradually dwindling to mere vibrations of the earth. For Audubon, the sensations became a source of amusement. "I for one became accustomed to the feeling as rather to enjoy the fears manifested by others," he wrote. His greatest amusement came on the night following a wedding at a friend's house. With the ceremony and partying over everyone had retired to sleeping quarters in the home when towards morning the rumbling noise of the earthquake woke everyone from their sleep. Fearing for their lives everyone rushed wildly from the house to huddle on the grass, "...together in a state of almost perfect nudity," much to Audubon's amusement.

When nature brings on its worst, I hope you all remain safe and like Audubon, manage to find a bit of amusement somewhere in the midst of it all.

Friends of Audubon Board of Directors

Find us on the web
www.friendsofaudubon.org

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Friends Of Audubon

Why become a member?

The ***Friends of Audubon*** is a non-profit organization established to enhance the public's enjoyment and understanding of the natural and historical wonders of Audubon State Park and the artistic and cultural treasures housed in the museum. Your membership with the ***Friends of Audubon*** helps to make the Audubon Museum one of the best of its kind in the world. Proceeds from membership go directly to the betterment of the museum, nature center, and the park. Membership privileges include: receiving *The Warbler* newsletter, free and unlimited museum and nature center visits, a 10% discount in the museum store, and invitations to art exhibit openings.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

____ Student (\$5)

____ Donor (\$100)

____ Individual (\$20)

____ Supporter (\$500)

____ Family (\$35)

____ Cardinal (\$1000)

Membership forms and dues may be dropped off at the park office (3100 US Hwy. 41 North, Henderson, KY) or sent to: Mark Kellen, John James Audubon State Park, P.O. Box 576, Henderson, KY 42419-1576.